

Message Text

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60

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 STR-08

OMB-01 CIEP-03 OPIC-12 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 CEA-02 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4331

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER
AND ADMINISTRATOR FAS

1. MONTREAL GAZETTE AUGUST 26 CARRIES CHICAGO DAILY
NEWS STORY ON FRONT PAGE UNDER HEADLINE "STIFF U.S.
NOTE PROTESTS QUOTAS ON MEAT IMPORTS". STORY IS
BY-LINED BY NEIL AND JOANNA GILBRIDE, REPRESENTING
GANNET NEWSPAPERS IN OTTAWA, WHO AT END OF LAST WEEK
HAD APPARENTLY PICKED UP RUMOR ABOUT NOTE AND
TELEPHONED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
IN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON. WHILE IT APPARENT FROM
ARTICLE THAT SOURCES CONTACTED REMAINED CLOSE-MOUTHED,
GILBRIDES PICKED UP ENOUGH COMMENT -- INCLUDING SOME
GIVEN BY EMBASSY SOURCES ON BACKGROUND BASIS -- TO
PIECE TOGETHER REASONABLE ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF
DEVELOPMENTS BUT WITHOUT ANY DETAIL ON PRECISE CONTENTS
OF NOTE. EMBASSY INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE
COMMENT ON CONTENTS OF NOTE.

2. TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES HAS FORMALLY
VOICED ITS DISPLEASURE OVER CANADA'S NEW CATTLE
AND BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS.

COUPLED WITH CANADA'S TOTAL BAN ON AMERICAN
CATTLE AND BEEF IMPORTS EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE NEW
QUOTAS ARE EXPECTED TO COST THE HAD-HIT U.S. LIVESTOCK
INDUSTRY MORE THAN \$100 MILLION IN LOST SALES THIS
YEAR.

U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM PORTER PERSONALLY
DELIVERED THE STIFF FORMAL NOTE TO THE EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AN AMERICAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID.

WHILE U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS REFUSED TO
REVEAL THE EXACT CONTENTS OF THE NOTE, U.S. ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CLAYTON YEUTTER SAID, "IT
WOULD BE FIDICULT FOR ANY NATION TO DEFEND SUCH
RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES." ESPECIALLY AT A TIME
OF WORLD FOOD SHORTAGES AND SOARING PRICES.

ON CANADIAN OFFICIAL, WHO CONCEDED THAT THE
NOTE WAS BEING STUDIED, SAID "I WOULDN'T CALL IT A
PROTEST, BUT NATURALLY THE AMERICANS AREN'T SINGING
HIGH PRAISES" ABOUT THE QUOTAS.

A U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN, DESCRIBING THE NOTE,
SAID, "IT'S CERTAINLY AN EXPRESSION OF SORROW." HE
ADDED THAT SUCH FORMAL NOTES TO ANOTHER COUNTRY ARE
NORMALLY DELIVERED "ON INSTRUCTIONS" FROM THE SECRETARY
OF STATE.

THE NOTE IS THE UNITED STATES' STRONGEST REACTION
SINCE CANADA BANNED ALL AMERICAN IMPORTS OF CATTLE,
BEEF, SHEEP AND LAMB LAST APRIL ON THE GROUNDS THAT
SOME U.S. FARMERS WERE FATTENING THEIR ANIMALS WITH
THE HORMONE DIETHYLSTILBESTROL (DES).

CANADA PROHIBITS THE USE OF DES BECAUSE IT HAS
BEEN LINKED WITH CANCER IN LABORATORY TEST ANIMALS.
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OPPONENTS OF THE CURBS SAY THE DES BAN IS A
SUBTERFUGE BY WHICH CANADA WAS PROPPING UP PRICES
FOR ITS OWN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.

".THEY SHOWED THEIR HAND WHEN THEY EASED THE TOTAL
BAN BUT SLAPPED ON QUOTAS," SAID A U.S. OFFICIAL HERE.
END QUOTE.

JOHNSON

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